

# Whistles in the Woods

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*Published by Adirondack Live Steamers*

OPERATING 6500 FEET OF TRACK IN THE FOOTHILLS OF THE ADIRONDACKS

7 ¼" GAUGE 1 ½" SCALE

OPERATING GAUGE 1 TRACKAGE FOR STEAM AND ELECTRIC

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SAFETY FIRST

April 2008

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## BACK TO THE TRACK

Ken Nelson

After a long winter of snow and ice, with freezing rain thrown in all too often, we are all ready to return to one of our favorite places, and begin again to operate a railroad through some very beautiful surroundings.

While the best made plans of getting several track panels built over the winter just didn't happen, it is not too late to begin now. It seemed that every weekend, there was another threatened snow or ice storm that made it impossible for anyone to get our plow working and get the drive plowed for a work session. However with spring just around the corner, now might be a good time to begin working on some panels to give us a head start on our new service

trackage. In addition, there is, and will continue to be, a lot of raking, leaf blowing, and general cleaning up to do, along with unfinished work from last year. And of course, most important, we have trains to run, and rides to take.

We hope to see you at the club very soon. Saturdays are our official work days, but if you are retired, or otherwise free during the week, plan to come on up any day and spend an hour or several hours getting our grounds back in operating shape for the summer. If you see a new member, or anyone you don't know, say "Hi" and make a new railroad friend.

We'll see you at the track. \*\*\*

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**Next Meeting: Saturday, April 12, 1:00 PM  
Club House**

**Deadline for the May *Whistles in the Woods*  
Saturday, April 19**

**Submit ALL information to Don Buesing (See article on p. 3)**

**Other Important Dates: See Last Page**

# President's Corner

Unfortunately, our President, Don Buesing, is IN the corner, or in some part of his house, with his knee elevated, and an anti-biotic being pumped into him. He will not be able to write his monthly column this month, so in his place, I will try to bring you up to date with his illness.

Don was in Florida during part of the month of March, and began having pain in his knee. His knee has been giving him trouble for some period of time, and he knew that he would need a knee replacement in the future. When he got home, he went to the doctor and found out that he had a serious infection. He was ordered to report to the hospital in Saratoga, where his doctors studied his situation. At this point, he is home, but as mentioned above, has his knee elevated, and is having a very strong anti-biotic administered. It takes several hours for the anti-biotic to completely enter his body, and he must go through this procedure several times over the next several days. At that time, the doctors will again evaluate his situation. He needs to have the knee replaced, but that surgery cannot take place until the infection is gone.

At this point in time, Don still hopes to be able to put something together for the May newsletter (see article on page 3). If any of you can help him in any way, please give him a call at home. You can all help by getting him your information for the May *Whistles* early.

Charlie Pellock has offered to remove any snow from the drive between now and the end of the winter for fire access. Thank you Charlie! Don hopes at this point to be able to chair the May Membership Meeting.

I'm sure that the thoughts and prayers of the entire membership are with Don for as fast a recovery as is possible.

Ken Nelson, Editor

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## CASTINGS WANTED

Benjamin Maggi

Member Benjamin Maggi is beginning construction of an Allen Mogul in July, and will be ordering some castings for it in the next month or so. If you have any castings for it that you don't want or need anymore, either due to a

change in plans or for other reasons, and want to sell them to a fellow club member who can use them, please e-mail me at [BENLMAGGI@hotmail.com](mailto:BENLMAGGI@hotmail.com). Thank you. \*\*\*

Whistles in the Woods  
NEWSLETTER OF THE  
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MEMBERSHIP

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## A GREAT LOSS TO ALL

Eunice Hosmer, wife of our current Vice President, Dick Hosmer, died on February 17 at her home after a long illness. She was a helpful, happy, smiling face at many ALS events, and will be missed by everyone at the club.

She was a graduate of Rockford College, in Rockford, IL, and retired in 1995 as Associate Controller after 20 years at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy NY.

Friends, including many from ALS, visited a memorial gathering at the Hosmer home on February 24. Those interested may make memorial contributions in her name to the American Cancer Society or the Community Hospice of Rensselaer County, 295 Valley View Road, Rensselaer, NY 12144.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Hosmer family. \*\*\*

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## MAY NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Ken Nelson

Since I will be out of town for most of the month of April, Don Buesing will edit the May issue of *Whistles in the Woods*. Please remember that the deadline for submitting information for the May issue is Saturday, April 19.

Please e-mail, give, or send ALL information for the June issue to Don by that date. This includes columns, articles, classifieds, letters to the editor, and anything else you intend to have published in the May issue.

Don is doing double-duty here, so please make this as easy on him as you can. \*\*\*

## THIS WEBSITE MAY INTEREST YOU

Ken Nelson

A gentleman by the name of Dale King contacted me recently to make me aware of a web page which he has developed.

Dale grew up in California and has been a live steam enthusiast since 1990. After visiting some two dozen live steam clubs on the west coast, he moved to the east coast and found it to be a chore to locate east coast clubs. What he has developed is a web page which is a geographical map of live steam tracks which can be used by anyone.

The page can be found at:

<http://www.livesteamtracks.info>

Dale welcomes all questions and comments, as well as updates to the web page.

The page uses Google maps. You can select from the railroads listed within the pull down menu at the top of the screen or just click on any red marker. This will identify the railroad

by name and location, provide the gauge or gauges that the club operates, as well as the amount of track available for each gauge. When you select a railroad, the map centers on that railroad's location. Clicking on the link will open a new page with the track's web page. If you click on the "Zoom in" button, it will take you to the satellite map for that club's railroad if the location is known. You will find that several clubs, including ALS, have not made available the exact location of their club.

Also available on this web page is a listing of many of the companies that produce items used by those in our hobby.

One look at the US map may surprise you at the number of live steam clubs there are currently operating in the country. Also included is a listing of the clubs in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada. \*\*\*

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## BE A PART OF WHISTLES

Please remember that *Whistles in the Woods* is YOUR club's newsletter. The staff wants YOUR input. Have you done something on vacation that relates to trains? Have you found an interesting web page that others in the club might enjoy seeing? Have you an opinion to express about the club via a letter to the editor? Do you have anything in the railroad line to sell? Are you looking for

a live steam item that someone might have a lead on? Have you discovered a new idea or way of doing something in the hobby from which others might benefit? Your input doesn't have to be grammatically perfect. We can help with writing it if necessary.

Please send along your ideas to [pocovalley@msn.com](mailto:pocovalley@msn.com) and see your creation in print. \*\*\*

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# Notes From Rich

First I want to thank all of you who have sent in your membership dues for 2008. While most of our members have responded, there are a few of you out there who still need to send in your dues. Please do it NOW. I am willing to e-mail the current membership list to you if you e-mail me and let me know you need one. Otherwise, they will be available to you at the club at a later date.

Second, I thank Jeane Lutz, our previous Membership Secretary, for all of her work. I realize now what a huge job this is, keeping track of all of our members along with their type of membership.

Along with our continuing members, we want to welcome some new members to ALS for 2008.

**Ben Maggi** has upgraded from Associate to Regular membership, and is joined by his wife Sarah who becomes an Associate as part of the family. Ben is an attorney who resides in Clifton Park, NY.

**Albert Bartlett** from Ballston Spa, NY has been welcomed as an Associate member. His expertise includes steam boilers, plumbing, and electrical work. He is interested in mechanics.

**Michael Harko** from Gansevoort, NY has joined us as an Associate. He enjoys cooking, so in the not too distant future, you may be eating one of his dishes at the club.

**Jeff Nelson** and his wife **Ann Marie** have joined as Associate Family members. They are both from New York City and are joined by their son, and Ken and Bobbie Nelson's grandson **Graham**, who was a junior member last year. Jeff is a professional musician and Ann Marie owns a children's clothing store.

**Tim Nelson**, son of Ken and Bobbie, and his wife **Julie** have also joined as Associate Family members, along with their son **Joseph** and daughters **Rachel** and **Rebecca**. They live in Stamford, Connecticut. Tim and Julie are both accountants.

**Ken Power** from Chateaugay, Quebec has joined as an Associate member.

**Marie Scalion** is a secretary from Castleton, NY and has joined as an Associate member.

**Joseph Van Camp**, along with his mother **Carol** have joined as an Associate Family.

**Anna Mae Yuh** from Budd Lake, NJ has joined us as an Associate member.

We welcome all of our new members and look forward to seeing you all at the track.  
**Rich**, Membership Secretary

# Minutes

## **A Brief Summary of the Highlights of the March Membership Meeting**

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Dick Hosmer at 11:32 AM in the meeting room of the Greenwich Public Library.

It was announced that President Don Buesing has suffered problems with his knee and may need surgery in the near future.

The minutes of the last meeting were read by Recording Secretary Llyn Rice and were approved. Treasurer Glenn Freedman gave his treasurer's report. Rich Dean presented his Membership Secretary's report. As of March 14, 2008, we have a total of 177 members. Rich reported that the "core" membership has renewed. Several others from last year are still outstanding. One upgrade and several new members were presented and accepted. (See Rich's column in this issue for details.) There was no Education Report.

### Old Business:

- Rich Dean continues to work on our insurance for 2008. An attempt is being made to remove some or all of the restrictions in our current policy.
- Ted Wilming reported that several engineers need to update their qualifications for 2008. See article elsewhere in this issue.
- Ray Dwyer reported that the boiler for the club engine will cost \$3300 plus freight as of January of this year. He will continue to work on this.
- The second Prototype Operation Day for 2008 has been changed. The new date will now be Saturday, August 16. This will prevent a conflict with Waushakum Live Steamers Meet.

### New Business:

- Mark Landgraf reported that four new passenger carrying cars will be donated to the club. The club will provide trucks and couplers.
- Since our snow plow is currently out of commission, Charlie Pellock has offered to clear the driveway at the club in order to provide fire department access.
- This year is the club's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Don Buesing will set an official date to celebrate this event. The Fall Meet was suggested but with Don's absence, no decision was made. Jonathan Hockaday is working with several people to design a T-shirt. Pins and mugs were also suggested as items which could be sold.
- The need for signaling and turnout control in the new DeSantis Divide was discussed. Tom Rhodes will create a design using air and/or electric control for the area.
- Mark Landgraf announced the need for a pole barn to house several of our pieces of equipment including the new Case tractor, our donated chipper, our current tractor, and several other items.
- The Budget for 2008 was approved.

The Meeting was adjourned.

## ENGINEER UPDATES NEEDED BY SOME

Ted Wilming

Is your Qualification as an Engineer current? Please check the following list. If your name appears, you are due NOW to take the test which is on line at Adirondacklivesteamers.org.

Everyone who operates a locomotive or other powered device on ALS tracks must take the test at least every three years. If you have questions as you take it, check the rules which are also on line. When completed, follow the directions which explain how to submit the test.

Some people take the test every year just to keep current, but the following are due to take it now.

Elliott Courtney	Barbara Nelson
Paige Cushing	Vincent Ricci
Charles Hosmer	Norah Singer
Daniel Kane	Wayne Singer
Bob Latino	Lance Sherman
Keith Muldowney	Joseph Tansk
Michael Muldowney	Jacques Thuot
Fred Mutton	Rory Weinreich
Darrin Nash	Annamae Yuhus

If you have any further questions, contact me at (518) 654-7108 or by e-mail at twilming@hotmail.com.

Why not do this now as you think of it? Don't get shut out on our first operating day. \*\*\*

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## CHANGE IN THE 2008 CALENDAR

Skip Densing

There has been a slight change in our 2008 Calendar. The second Prototype Operation Day for this year has been changed to Saturday, August 16. The previous date conflicted with the Fall Meet of the Waushakum Live Steamers,

and since several of our members attend Waushakum, we felt we should change our date.

The first Proto Op Day remains on Saturday, July 19. \*\*\*

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## WEDNESDAY WORK DAYS

Skip Densing and Ken Nelson

Last summer, the two of us got together on several Wednesdays to work at the club. We welcome those who are retired or otherwise free on Wednesdays, to join us this summer. Several clubs

have tried this idea and it seems to work well for some people. If you wish, give Skip or Ken a call first to make sure that someone will be there. Otherwise, just come join us. \*\*\*

Adirondack Live Steamers  
C/o Peter Petrillose  
41 Goode Street  
Burnt Hills, NY 12027

## First Class

**NOTE PAD**

**April 12 – Membership Meeting**  
**May 10 – Membership Meeting**  
**May 17 – New Member Day**  
**Wednesdays and Saturdays –**  
**Work Days**

**Have you  
paid your  
2008 dues?**